

VZCZCXRO9029  
RR RUEHAT  
DE RUEHTC #1247 1570937  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 060937Z JUN 06  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5911  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1598  
RUEHAT/AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM 0925  
RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 3403

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 001247

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KSCA](#) [TBIO](#) [OTRA](#) [GM](#) [NL](#)  
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR Dr. Thomas  
Langenickle

REF: SECSTATE 88866

1. The Hague grants country clearance to Dr. Thomas  
Langenickle, Visiting Fellow, National Human Genome Research  
Institute, NIH, to travel to the Netherlands on June 6-10,  
2006. The purpose of the travel is to attend the XIVth  
International Vascular Biology Meeting in Noordwijkerhout.

2. As per reftel, no assistance is required.

SECURITY ADVISORY:

3. Since July 9, 2004, the Dutch Government has implemented  
heightened security measures in response to concerns of  
terrorist activity. U.S. citizens in the Netherlands are  
encouraged to monitor media reports, and are reminded to  
maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate  
steps to increase their security awareness.

4. Tensions in the Netherlands are high, sparked by the  
November 2, 2004 murder of a Dutch film producer known for  
his outspoken criticism of Islam; and by the November 10,  
2004 raid on a home of suspected terrorists, which led to an  
all-day standoff and ended with the arrest of three  
individuals and non-fatal injuries to the suspects and the  
police. Subsequent arrests were made in connection to this  
raid and further investigation revealed that these suspects  
had ties to known terrorist groups. These events initiated  
a GoN-wide overhaul of its Counter-Terrorism measures,  
including providing more resources to combat violent Islamic  
radicalism. There have been a series of protests and arson  
attacks directed at mosques and Islamic schools in the  
Netherlands, plus retaliatory actions against several  
churches. American citizens should bear in mind that even  
demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn  
confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.  
American citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of  
demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if  
within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

5. The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the  
heightened possibility of terrorist attacks against U.S.  
citizens and interests abroad. As noted in the Department  
of State's Worldwide Caution of September 10, 2004,  
terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian  
targets. Such targets may include facilities where U.S.  
citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, including  
residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship,  
schools, hotels and public areas. Terrorist actions may  
include, but are not limited to, suicide operations,  
assassination, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These  
may involve aviation and other transportation and maritime  
interests.

6. An area of concern for visitors to the Netherlands is  
crime. Most crimes against official Americans are limited

to pick-pocketing and purse and luggage theft. Theft from automobiles and hotel rooms are not unknown. Recently, theft of laptop computers has increased, especially at Schiphol Airport and major train stations. The thieves operate in small groups that target travelers. They are determined and well-practiced at distraction theft. Official travelers have been victimized, losing personal or unclassified government computers, software and data.

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Travelers are reminded that regulations require the use of the diplomatic pouch for shipment of classified equipment and information.

17. Streets can be walked in relative safety but, as in any U.S. urban area, caution and vigilance should be exercised especially after dark in the more populated cities of The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Red-light districts and public transportation hubs are common locations for incidents of street crimes.

18. For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web sit at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Cautions, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free I the U.S., line at 1-317-472-2328. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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